

DON'T CALL ME

DIRTY

TOKYOPOP®

LOVE
x
LOVE

GOROU KANBE

Chapter 1

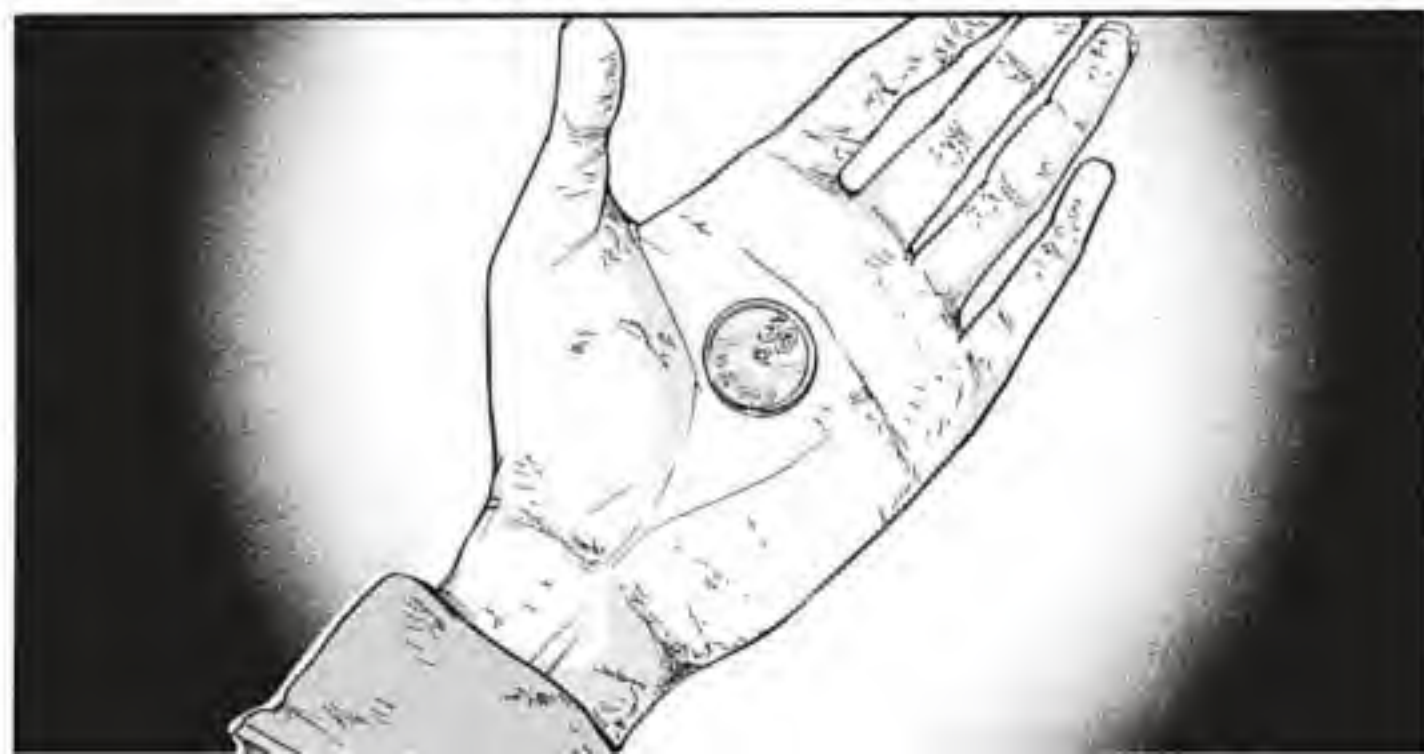


DON'T CALL ME DIRTY

By Gorou Kanbe



Chapter 1 - The Snack Thief





AAAAAH!

HE LOOKS LIKE A BINBOU-GAMI...

WHO IS THAT?

HMM?

STUMBLE

KANAI!

*A JAPANESE DEITY SAID TO INHABIT PEOPLE'S HOMES AND BUSINESSES TO BRING ABOUT MISERY AND POVERTY

BINBOU-GAMI...!

WAIT, NO...

A HOMELESS GUY?

WHAT'S HE DOING AT THE STORE?

LOOM

...OPEN?

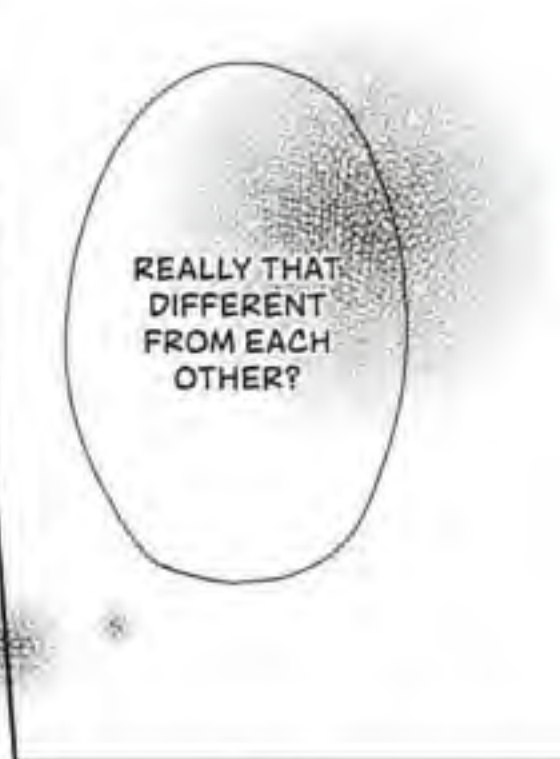
OR STORE

















PHEW!



I'M...
SORRY...



BETTER
OFF
WITHOUT
YOU
HERE?

DON'T
YOU
THINK
HE'D
BE?

I BET THE
REASON HE
GAVE ME SO
MUCH FLAK
THE OTHER DAY
WAS BECAUSE
I RUINED HIS
PLANS TO
SHOPLIFT.

MMMM!

THEY
SURE HAD
US DETAINED
FOR A LONG
TIME.

...YEAH.

OH, WELL...
AT LEAST HIS
PARENTS SEEM
LIKE DECENT
FOLKS. AT
THIS RATE...



YOU'RE
NOT
ENTIRELY
BLAMELESS
EITHER!

WAIT
A
SEC!

...HUNT?

YOU KNEW
HE DID IT, SO
WHY DIDN'T
YOU SPEAK
UP FOR
YOURSELF?

THINGS
SHOULD
BE—



PERFECTLY
CLEAN?

AND YET
AREN'T THE
SNACKS...



SEE...

WHEN
THE LIQUOR
STORE BOY
TOUCHED HIM,
HIS HANDS
GOT DIRTY
INSTANTLY.



NOT
TO BE
RUDE:
BUT...

HIS HANDS
ARE PRETTY
FILTHY.



BUT
YOU DO
HAVE A
POINT...

NOW YOU
ARE BEING
RUDE.

AND
THE SHOP
DOESN'T
SMELL...

BUT THE
DOOR'S
NOT DIRTY
EITHER.

COME ON.
THAT'S ONLY
BECAUSE THE
PACKAGING
DOESN'T GET
DIRTY EASILY.

IT'S A
PLASTIC
WRAPPER.



YOU GOT
ANYTHING
TO ADD?!

WELL?!



FLINCH

GLAAARE











AREN'T I THE NO-GOOD SHOPKEEPER WHO YELLS ABOUT MY LOVE LIFE AND WOULD BE BETTER OFF QUITTING?

EH?
WHY'RE YOU GIVING IT TO ME?



AND... AS AN APOLOGY... AND STUFF...

MY PARENTS TOLD ME TO BRING THIS FOR YOU.

TO MAKE UP FOR THE SNACKS I RUINED... AND...



HAMA!

HAMAAA!



WELL, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO APOLOGIZE TO THAT OLD GEEZER?

BUT I'M NOT THE ONE YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO.

I KNOW.

BACK THEN... I WAS JUST TRYING TO GET RID OF YOU...

DON'T HOLD THAT AGAINST ME...



OH.

MOUTH FULL もい

OL'MAN KAJI'S THE ONE Y' SHOULD...



KAJI'S SNACKS

OOOOOH!



SHOU, WHAT ARE THESE?!



CAN WE EAT THEM?

THESE ARE SAMPLES.

I'M THINKING OF SELLING THEM AT OUR FOOD STAND FOR THE FIRST TEMPLE VISIT OF THE NEW YEAR EVENT.

THEY'RE SAKE MANJUU*.

*A SWEET DUMPLING WITH SAKE-FLAVORED SKIN AND RED BEAN FILLING



NO!

YOU WANT SOME SAKE MANJUU TOO...?

WELCOME.

I SAID HEY!!



YAAAAAY!

HEY.

SCORE!

HEY, YOU'RE TAKING TOO MANY!

IT'S FINE. WE'VE GOT MORE AT THE STORE.

EAT UP.









I WONDER IF
HIRO WOULD
SAY THAT TOO IF
HE ATE THEM...

WITH A GENTLE,
SUBTLE FLAVOR.

WAS CALLED
DELICIOUS...

SOMETHING
I MADE...



IT'S NO
GOOD.



THAT
IT'S
NOT...
WORKING
OUT?

HAVE I
REALLY...

BEEN
WORRIED...

AND
YET MY
THOUGHTS
INEVITABLY
CIRCLE
BACK
ANYWAY.

I MADE
THESE SAKE
MANJŪ SO I
WOULD STOP
THINKING
ABOUT
HIRO...

STIR
STIR

THIS IS
WHAT I
GET FOR
RUNNING
MY MOUTH
OFF ABOUT
IT TO HAMA
YESTERDAY.

...THAT'S
IT.



REALLY
DELI-
CIOUS.

THANKS...
FOR
SHARING
THEM
WITH
ME.

GENTLE,
SUBTLE
FLAVOR.

I GUESS
IT'S
LIKE...

THIS
REAL-
LY...



OH,
YEAH.

NO.
YOU
SAID YOU
WANTED
FEEDBACK.

COULD
IT BE...
ARE YOU
TRYING TO
COMFORT
ME?



SOMETHING I...

AH...
SURE.

WE'LL ALSO
BE SELLING
AMAZAKE* AT
THE NEW YEAR
CELEBRATION
SO... IF YOU'D
LIKE SOME
OF THAT...

NOT AT
ALL.

SO,
THEN, UM,
I'M NOT
BOTHERING
YOU?

*A TRADITIONAL SWEET SAKE WITH LOW ALCOHOL CONTENT, POPULAR SERVED HOT IN WINTER







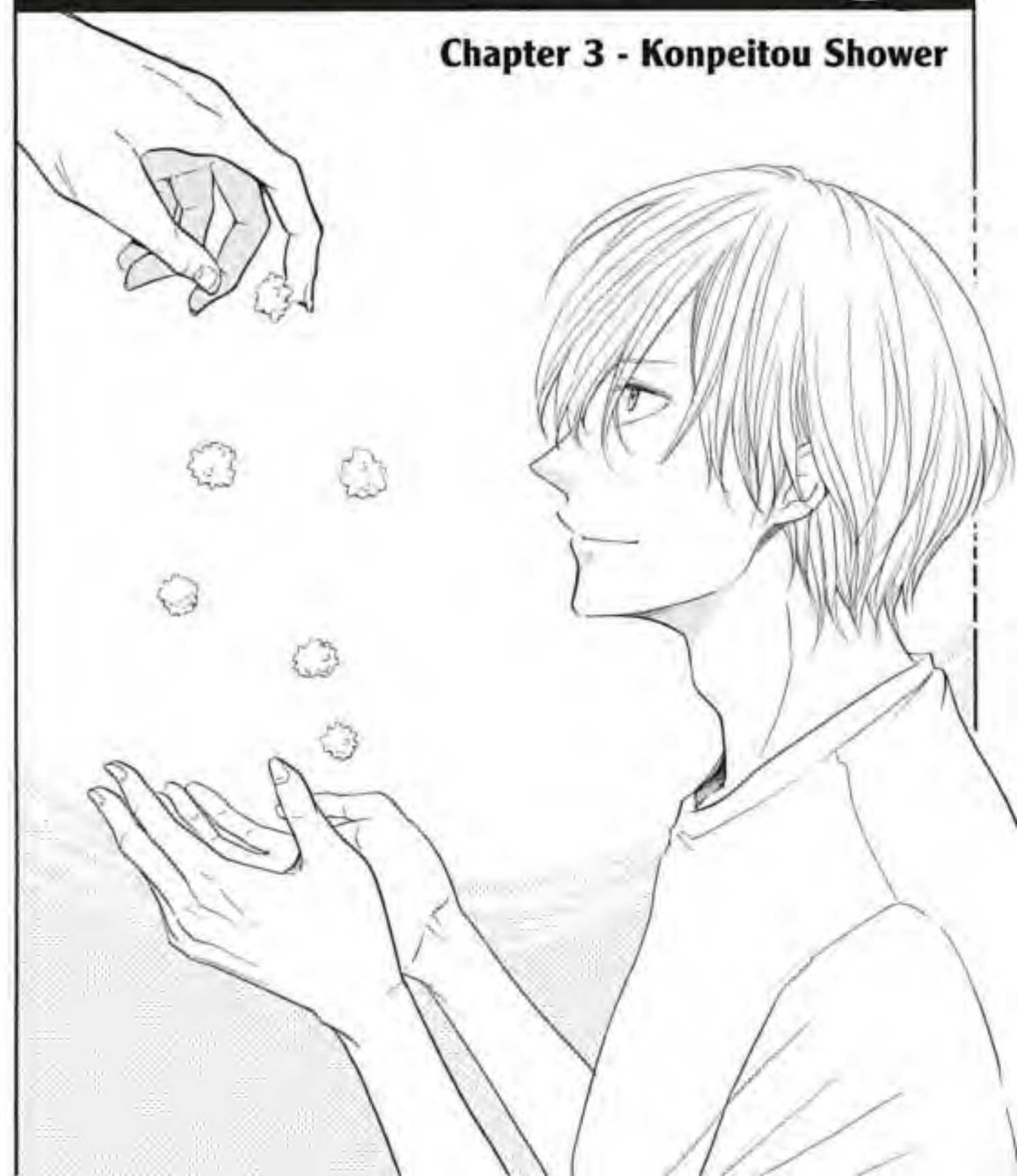


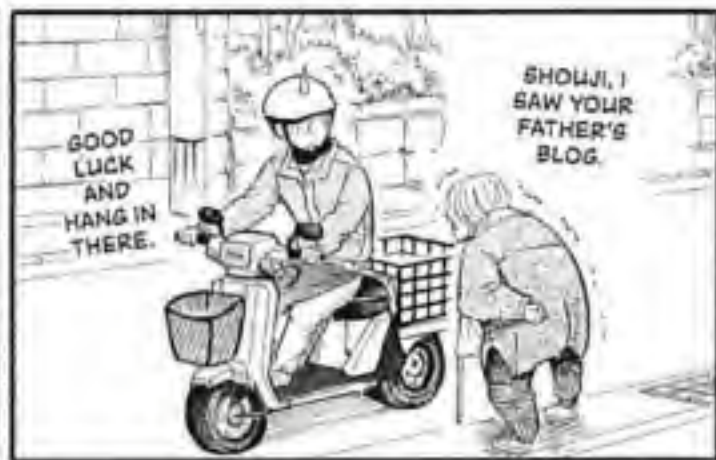






Chapter 3 - Konpeitou Shower



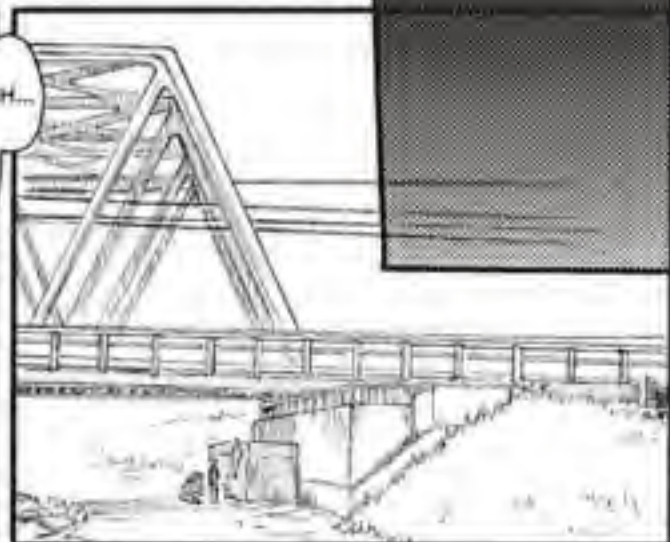
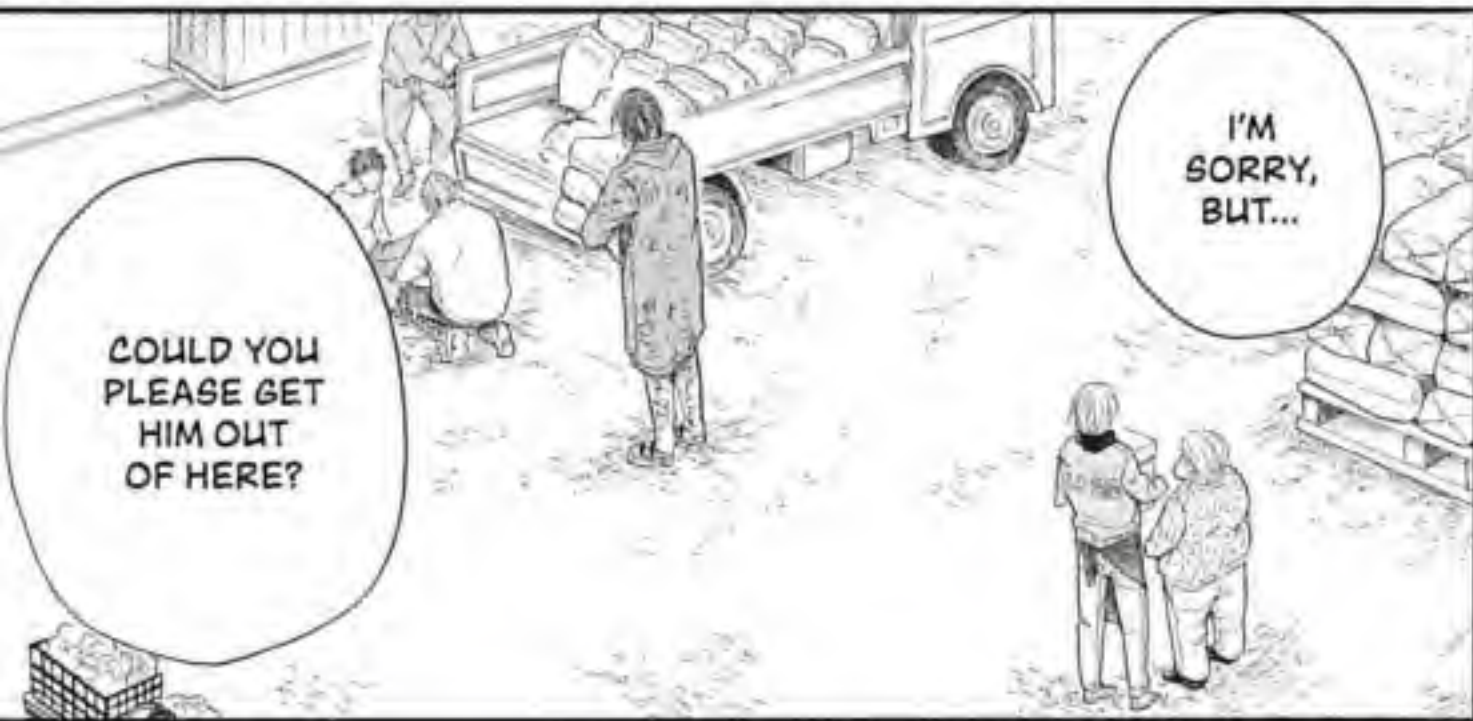


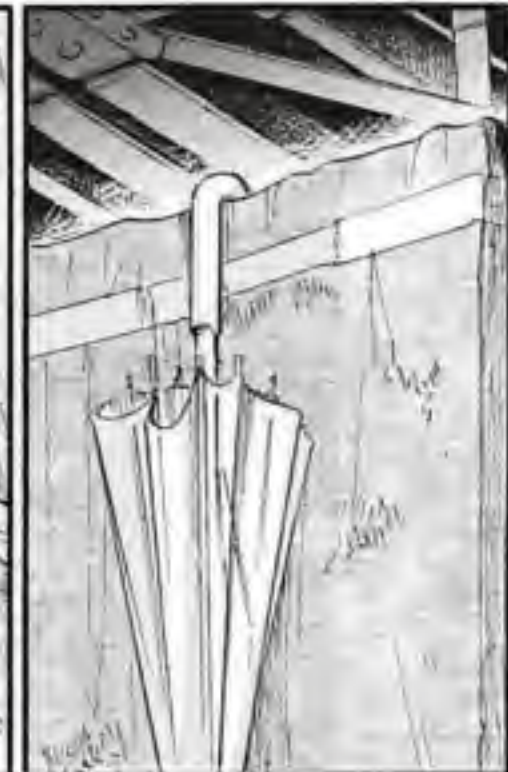




*A TYPE OF TRADITIONAL JAPANESE RICE CRACKER









I HAVE
TO GIVE
IT BACK!

YOUR
POT!



HUH?!

?!!

CRASH

WHOA!



DID
I... SAY
ANYTHING
TO YOU,
HAMA?

NO,
I'M THE
ONE WHO
FORCED IT
ON YOU...
I THINK.

NOT THAT I
REMEMBER
MUCH ABOUT IT...



I'D
FORGOTTEN
IT AT OLD
MAN KAJI'S
PLACE.

THE
AMAZAKE...

SEE...
SORRY...



EVERYBODY...

HAS
IDIOSYNCRASIES
THAT OTHERS
JUST CAN'T
GET OVER.

LIKE
WITH
HIRO.



I REALIZED...

HE HAD
A POINT.



K-CLACK
ハ
ア

K-CLACK
ハ
ア

K-CLACK
ハ
ア

LET'S
NOT...

GO THERE.



SHOUJI!

AND HAMA
MUST BE...

AND THE
DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN
ME...





YOU NEVER
COME INTO
THE SHOP?

UH...



NO.

THAT'S
NOT.

YOU
SHOULD
TAKE SOME
OF THE
RESCUES
WITH YOU.

I'LL PUT
THEM IN A
LITTLE BAG
FOR YOU.

AS THANKS
FOR WALKING
MY BIKE HOME
FOR ME.



HMPHI

I'VE...
BEEN
MEANING
TO ASK
THIS FOR
A WHILE.

HAMA,
HOW
COME...



FINE,
IN THAT
CASE...

I'M JUST
GONNA
SAY IT!



NO,
BUT...

IT'S NOT
HYGIENE.

C'MON!

THIS ISN'T
A DRIVE-
THRU!

COME
INSIDE
AND
WAIT!



WHY DOES
EVERYBODY...

JUST DISMISS
HIM AS DIRTY?

NO.

I WASN'T...
TRYING
TO.

ARE
YOU...

TRYING
TO CHEER
ME UP?

HA
HA.

WELL,
EITHER
WAY, I
DO FEEL
BETTER.

...OKAY.



I KNEW
I'D LEFT MY
CELL PHONE
HERE!

AH!

RATTLE
+





AFTER ALL...

IS DOWNRIGHT
UNTRUE.

THE IDEA OF
MEN BEING
DIRTY...

BUT...

I WAS RIGHT.

THIS PERSON
IS SO...

I KNEW
IT.

AND THE
HOMELESS
BEING DIRTY...



Chapter 4 - Liar Noodles





YOU AND YOUR DAD HAVE BEEN OPENING AND CLOSING THE STORE EVERY DAY.

THE MAN IN QUESTION JUST SITS HERE AND DOZES OFF.

NOT TO MENTION THE ACCOUNTING, AND THE FACT HE WON'T EVEN RESPOND WHEN SPOKEN TO!



YOU CALL THIS "NOT A PROBLEM"?



LOOK AT THE PROPRIETOR.



SO WHERE IS THERE "NO PROBLEM" IN THAT?!

MY FATHER CLEARLY REQUIRES PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE AND NURSING.

SO ANSWER ME THIS, SHOWJI!



I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR HIM.

SORRY I GOT MAD

ALL RIGHT, I'M SORRY.

AND HE WAKES UP EVERY DAY WHEN THE CLOCK CHIMES.

OLD MAN KAJI WAKES UP SOMETIMES.

LIKE WHEN THERE'S LOUD NOISES.



GRK...

AHI!

HNNNGGGHH...



TAKE CARE ...?

YOU MEAN...

AND I'VE COME HOME...

TO TAKE CARE OF MY FATHER'S SHOP.



BUT YOU SEEM TO GET THE GIST OF IT.

I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE IS WHICH...

YOU DON'T MEAN TAKE CARE OF.

YOU MEAN... "TAKE CARE OF"?!



THE STORE'S FINE! IT'S HAD NO PROBLEMS SO FAR...

WHAT?

WHY COME HOME SUDDENLY AND CLOSE UP WITHOUT WARNING?

THE CHILDREN WILL BE CRUSHED WITHOUT THIS PLACE!



I'M CLOSING THE STORE.

THAT'S WHAT I MEAN.



I DON'T JUST MEAN HIM.

I TOLD YOU, I SAW YOUR FATHER'S SOCIAL MEDIA.

WEIRDOSY HAMA'S NOT—



SHOWJI.

YOU OUGHT TO THINK TWICE BEFORE KEEPING COMPANY WITH WEIRDOS.



GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER.

YOU'RE A POOR JUDGE OF CHARACTER.



THE GUY WHO BROKE UP WITH YOU DID IT IN A PARTICULARLY HURTFUL WAY.



WHICH IS WHY I ONLY HAVE A TERRIBLE IMPRESSION OF HIM AS THE MAN WHO HURT YOU.

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM.



IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME SPEAKING POORLY OF YOUR BOYFRIENDS...

THEN TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOURSELF.



HANAQ, YOU DON'T KNOW THE FULL STORY.

I WOULDN'T KNOW.

HE HAD HIS GOOD POINTS TOO...



YOU'VE GOT A POINT.

IT'S UNCOUTH TO DO THIS IN FRONT OF A CUSTOMER.

HUH?



IT'S PROBABLY BEST IF I EXCUSE MYSELF.

IF YOU GUYS ARE DISCUSSING BUSINESS...

HUH?



I DON'T NEED THOSE BROKEN SENBEI AS THANKS.

I'M SORRY FOR MAKING A MESS OF THE STORE.



IS YOUR HEAD OKAY?

SORRY FOR HITTING YOU.

EH?

WAL...



HAMA—

SHOWJI.





I'M SURE HE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU COME VISIT.

HE'LL PROBABLY BE MOVING, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU'LL NEVER SEE HIM.

WILL WE NEVER GET TO SEE OLD MAN KAJI AGAIN?



HE WANTS TO DO WHATEVER HE CAN FOR YOU.

THIS SCARY DUDE IS OLD MAN KAJI'S SON.

HE'S JUST WORRIED ABOUT HIS DAD. HE'S NOT TRYING TO BE MEAN TO YOU GUYS.

WHAT ABOUT ME IS SCARY, MITA?

I'M NOT THAT DIFFERENT FROM YOU.



THANK YOU FOR ALL THE GOOD MEMORIES YOU GAVE "OLD MAN KAJI."

I WASN'T THERE MUCH FOR MY DAD, SO I'M SURE HE WAS HAPPY...

TO HAVE YOU ALL IN HIS LIFE.



YOU WANNA JOIN IN?

DON'T CALL ME KIDDO!

I'M NOT GOING NOWHERE!

COME ON, KIDDO. YOU TOO.

GET OVER THERE.



IT'S "UNCLE WHO'S OLD MAN KAJI'S SON."

MAKE SURE YOU GET IT RIGHT.

GLOM

OLD MAN KAJI'S OLD SON!!



KAJI'S SNACKS



SHOW'S PAPA.

ANYWAY, YOU'LL STILL BE ABLE TO BUY MOST OF THE SNACKS AT OUR PLACE.



I MEAN, THAT'S NOT IT EITHER!

SO THAT KID...

REALLY FELT LIKE THAT.

THAT'S NOT WHY I MADE THAT FACE! I JUST THOUGHT... I'D NEVER GET TO SEE YOU AGAIN...

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT IT'S CLOSING, KIDDO!

IT WAS ONLY AN ATTEMPTED SHOPLIFTING!

THEN HE'D
BE OKAY
WHEREVER
HE WAS.

IF IT REALLY
DEPENDS ON
THE PERSON...

CAN DO
SOME-
THING...

BUT...

IF I...

HUH?

OH.
HAMA—

SCUFF!!

I GUESS
SOMEONE
CAME TO
COLLECT
THEM.

THE
CANS
ARE ALL
GONE.

I SEE.

YOU
NEVER
SAID ANY
OF THAT
BEFORE.

NO...
YOU
DIDN'T.

WELL,
REALLY?

DAD.

BUT I WAS
WONDERING,
DO YOU THINK
IT'D BE OKAY
FOR HIM TO
KEEP COMING
TO OUR PLACE
THE WAY HE'S
BEEN DOING
SO FAR?

I KNOW
PEOPLE
DON'T LOOK
KINDLY
ON THE
HOMELESS.

WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

KIJI'S SNACKS

HM?

LISTEN,
DAD.

THERE'S A
HOMELESS
GUY WHO'S
A REGULAR
AT THE
SNACK
SHOP.

BUT HE'S
PART OF THE
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
YOU'RE IN!

AND I'VE
ALWAYS BEEN
CONVINCED
OLD MAN
GATO'S
HOMELESS.

WAIT!

AND AUNTIE
SUZUKI DIDN'T
BATHE FOR
A WHILE AND
HAD TO BE
BANNED FROM
THE STORE.

YOU KNOW
THAT SUPER
TANNED MIDDLE-
AGED SURFER GUY
WHO SOMETIMES
COMES BY ON
MONDAYS?

HE'S
HOMELESS.

WHAT?
!

WHAT
MAKES A
CUSTOMER
UNDESIR-
ABLE
DEPENDS
ON THE
PERSON.

YOU CAN'T
LUMP "THE
HOMELESS"
ALL UNDER
THAT
CATEGORY.

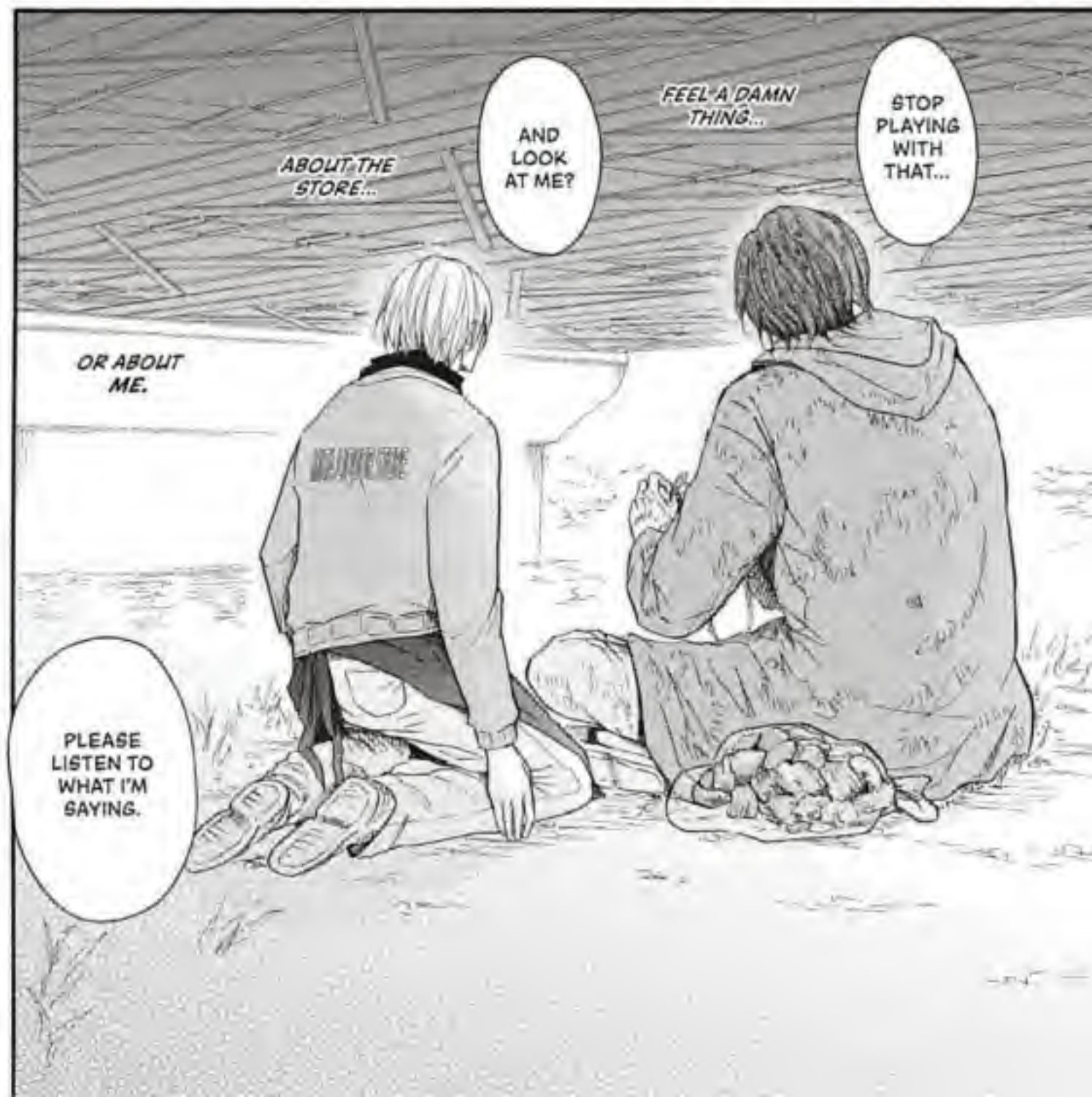
HOMEOWNERS
CAN BE JUST
AS WEIRD.

BUT I
TOLD YOU
ALL THIS
BEFORE.

SO DON'T
WASTE MY TIME
WITH SILLY
QUESTIONS.















OF MAKING
A CONNEC-
TION...

MY
TUMMY'S
FINE...

WITH ME,
TOO.

IT'S A
LITTLE
HIGHER
THAN
THAT.

IT'S
JUST...
JUST
SQUEEZ-
ING A
LITTLE.

ABOVE...

HIS
TUMMY?

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?

DOES
YOUR
TUMMY
HURT?

THE
SOLAR
PLEXUS?

I WONDER...

IF HE
WAS THAT
AFRAID...

OF
GETTING
CLOSE
TO PEOPLE.



KAJI'S SNACKS

WHAT?
"BALANCE
KETTLE"?
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
THAT IS!

DON'T
BLAME
ME! I
HAVEN'T
BEEN
IN THIS
HOUSE
FOR
YEARS!

OF
COURSE
I'D FORGET
HOW TO
WORK THIS
OUTDATED
HOT WATER
HEATER.

LOOK,
I'M
GETTING
NOWHERE
WITH THIS!
I'M COMING
OVER TO
YOUR
PLACE.
MITAI

I TOLD
YOU, I
ALREADY
TURNED
THE
KNOB.

WHICH
LEVER?
RIGHT...?

ROTATE
IT WHILE
TURNING
THE LEVER
TO THE
RIGHT...

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN
WRONG?



...YES.

NO...

UH...

HA...
MA.

"HAMA"?



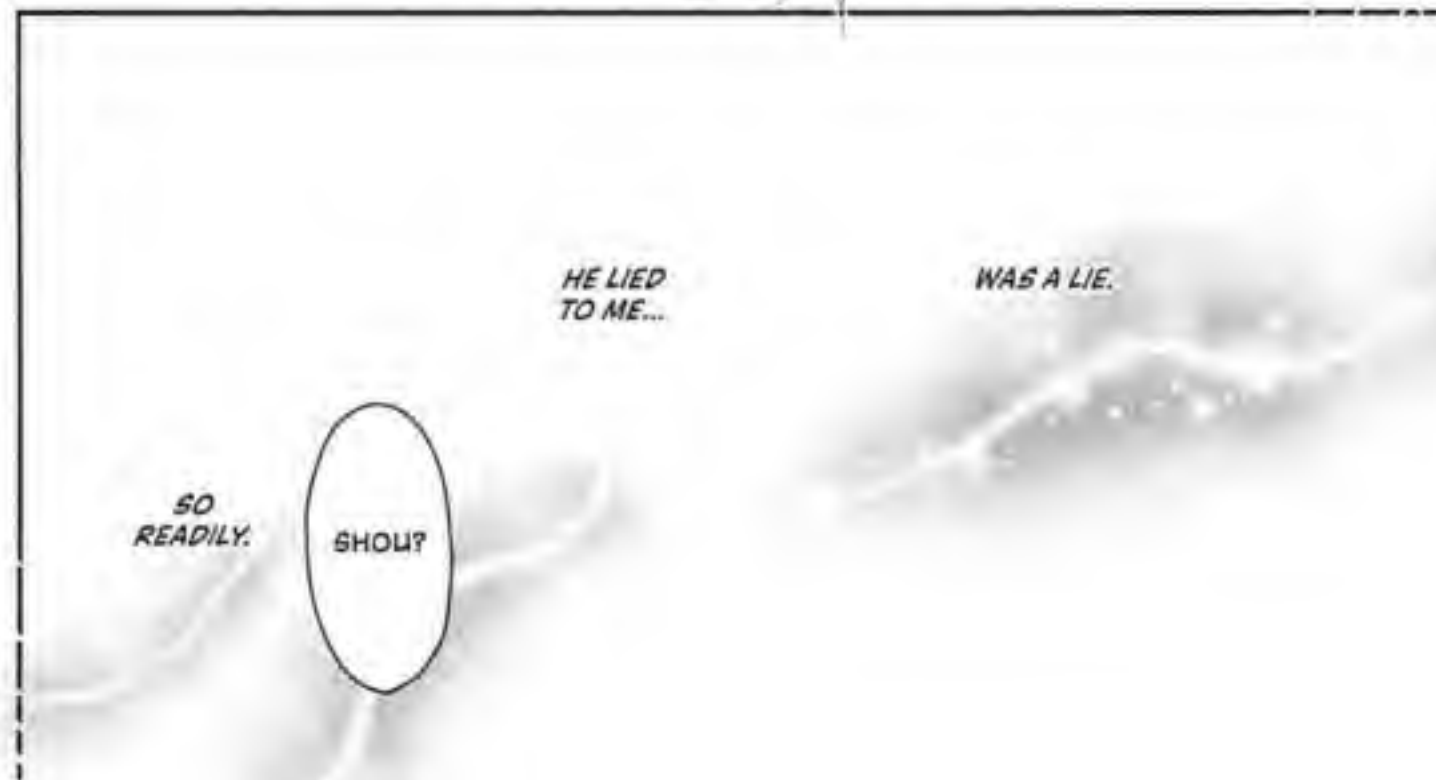
"HAMA."

MY...

NAME
IS...



EVEN HIS
NAME...



HE LIED
TO ME...

WAS A LIE.

SO
READILY.

SHOU?





THANKS
TO
YOUR
STORE...

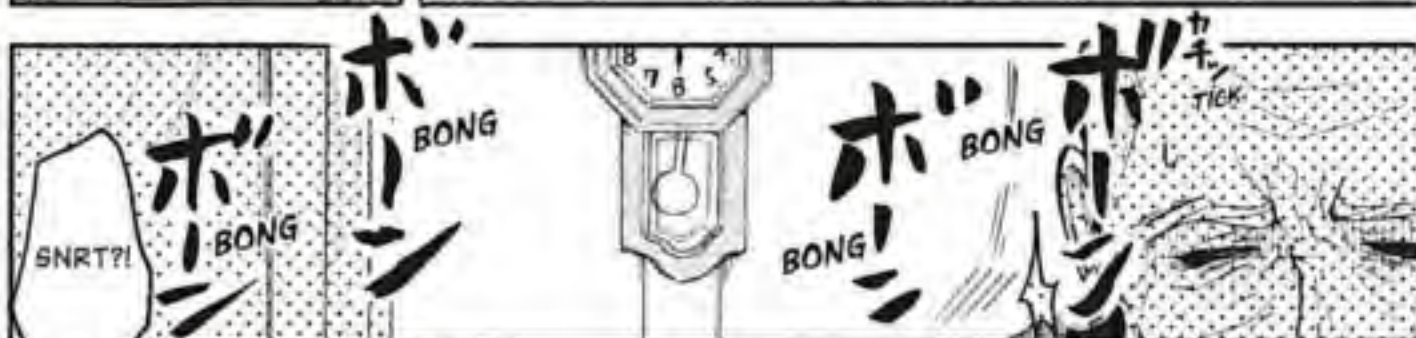
JUST
FOR A
MOMENT...

I
WAS ...



THANK
YOU...

VERY
MUCH.



カ
バ
ッ



AND HE
WAKES
UP EVERY
DAY WHEN
THE CLOCK
STRIKES
THE HOUR.

AH!



AWAKE?

ARE
YOU...



I HAVE
TO TELL
YOU.

YOU'RE
STILL
ASLEEP
SO...

THERE'S
SOME-
THING...



EX-
PRESSING
MYSELF
ANY-
MORE...

I'M NOT
MUCH
GOOD
AT...

THOUGH
I'M...















AND HE'S ALWAYS CRYING ABOUT WANTING TO BE LOVED.

HE WORRIES ABOUT HIS DEFECT.



HE'S JUST A POOR, PITIFUL CHILD.



MR. KAJI...



THE TRUTH IS... I ALWAYS KNEW IT WAS DOOMED TO FAIL.

IT'S JUST... MY RELATIONSHIP'S SORT OF BEEN ON THE ROCKS.

TA LIQUOR

DON'T WANT TO BE TOLD... THAT I'M... DIRTY.



BUT I DON'T REMEMBER MY LAST BATH...

OR NOT?

I'M SURE I SMELL PRETTY BAD TOO...

NO, NO, THAT'S JUST WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PERSON DOESN'T BATHE.



SORRY.

SDINKS!

YOU GIVE OFF A HELL OF A STENCH.

STILL...



DON'T PULL MY LEG!

THAT BOY COULD NEVER DO SOMETHING AS CONSIDERABLE AS THAT!

THAT'S RIDICULOUS!



WHAT?

THAT'S BECAUSE...

I BELIEVE SHOWA AND THE OTHERS TOOK CARE OF THAT FOR YOU.



THAT BOY'S BARELY HOLDING HIMSELF TOGETHER.









ALL RIGHT!



BUT WHEN YOU SAY "I MIGHT BE BROKEN, BUT I'M ALSO CHEAPER!" THEN THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO'LL LIKE THIS ONE TOO.

THEY BOTH TASTE THE SAME, BUT PEOPLE DON'T LIKE WHEN THEY'RE BROKEN.

THEY THINK "UGH, BUT YOU'RE BROKEN."



THE NOT-BROKEN ONE!

BOTH COST 30 YEN! WHICH DO YOU WANT?



IT'S NOT LIKE THEY WANTED TO GET BROKEN.

BUT THEY'RE CHEAPER... SO DON'T HATE ON THEM JUST FOR BEING ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES.



I GUESS IT'S OKAY AS LONG AS IT'S CHEAPER!

I'D BE MAD IF IT WAS THE SAME PRICE THOUGH!

YEAH, ME TOO! IF IT WAS THE SAME PRICE I'D BE MAD!

NOW, NOW.



WHEN I THINK ABOUT THEM, MY CHEST GETS SO HOT, IT HURTS. BUT IT'S STILL A WARM, FUZZY FEELING.

ALL THOSE MISTAKES...

ALL THE SAD TIMES AND HAPPY TIMES...



BUT I THINK, MAYBE...

I KNOW IT'S DISRESPECTFUL TO THE BOUNDARIES YOU DREW.

I'M SURE IT'S BECAUSE I'M CRUSHING ON YOU.



I'LL ALWAYS BE GLAD I FELL FOR YOU.

SINCE YOU'RE SUCH A NICE GUY...

EVEN IF YOU END UP HATING ME...



BEING
HATED
HURTS...

NO
MATTER
WHO YOU
ARE.



I DON'T WANT TO BE SOMEONE...

WHO WOULD EVER HURT YOU.

I WAS SURE I DIDN'T FEEL ANYTHING, BUT THEN...

BUT THEN...







*APPROX. ¥933K









Sequel -
"Now That It's Spring..."





TO TRULY
FORGET.

THIS IS WHAT
IT MEANS...

きゅん
CLING ?

AND YOUR
REAL NAME'S
SO SIMILAR,
IT'S EASY TO
FORGET...

OH,
SORRY,
FORCE
OF
HABIT.

ISN'T IT
ABOUT TIME
YOU STOPPED
CALLING ME
"HAMA"?

BY
THE WAY,
SHOUJI.

HAMADO

WELL,
YOU'RE
NOT
WRONG.
I FEEL
GUILTY
FOR
MISLEAD-
ING YOU.

THANK YOU FOR READING!!

Special
Thanks

- TO MY PREVIOUS EDITOR WHO LOOKED OUT FOR ME SINCE MY DEBUT
- TO MY EVER RELIABLE NEW EDITOR
- TO THE DESIGNER, AND EVERYONE IN THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT
WHO WAS INVOLVED

- TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED OUT: MY FRIEND
TAKELIMA, NANA WAKAZUKI-CHAN, MITSURU
YUMEMI-CHAN, AND MY MASTER ASUKA YUZUKI-SAN
THANK YOU FOR READING!!

IS THAT
WHAT HE
MEANT TOO?

BUT THAT
WASN'T THE
IMPRESSION
I GOT...

HOW DID
HE PUT IT
AGAIN...?

WHICH
IS CRAZY,
SINCE THE
FIRST TIME
I WATCHED
A GAY
PORN...

I DIDN'T THINK I'D
BE ABLE TO KEEP
WATCHING SINCE
IT LOOKED LIKE IT
HURT SO BAD.

RIGHT.

OF
COURSE.

HUH?

The Principle of Knowledge



After



**DON'T
CALL ME
DIRTY**

DON'T CALL ME DIRTY

Nothing Will Happen If You Don't Talk About It



Don't Call Me Daddy

